

Applicant : Robert E. Johnson  
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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

The base 11 (Fig. 2) includes a main plate 25, a plurality of radially-extending leg support brackets 26, a reinforcing plate 27, and a vertical pipe section 28, all attached rigidly together in a sandwich-like arrangement. A receiving tube 29 defining a square cross section is attached to an outer end of each of the leg support plates 26, for telescopingly receiving the rods 30. The rods 30 (Fig. 9) can be solid or tubular. The rods 30 have a square cross section that prevents them from rotating within the receiving tubes 29. Attached to an end of each rod 30 is an anchor [[31]] having one end 32 pivoted to the rod 30, and a trailing end 33 that is T-shaped. The receiving tube 29 includes slots 34 shaped to receive and capture the T-shaped trailing end 33 when the rod 30 is telescoped out of the receiving tube 29, such that the rod 30 always is retained to the base 11. When telescoped fully outwardly, the rods 30 are positioned out of and released from the receiving tube 29, such that the rods 30 can be pivoted upwardly to a raised storage position (Fig. 10). When the rods 30 are fully telescoped into the receiving tube 29 and engaged with the ground, the illustrated anchor [[31]] is not needed and lies on the support brackets 26. However, it is contemplated that a spring could be attached to the anchors [[31]] (such as to the pipe section 28) for biasing the rods 30 inwardly, or the anchor [[31]] could be made to pivot upwardly to lock onto a catch (such as to a latch on an inner end of the receiving tube 29), if a more positive retaining system were desired.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 29, with the following amended paragraph:

Different legs can be attached to the base 11. The illustrated legs include a foot 36, 36A, 36B attached to the rods 30. If the anchors [[31]] are made removable, such as by threading the trailing end 33 into the other end 32 or into the rod 30, different feet can be attached to the base 11 by removing rods 30 with one foot and replacing them with a rod 30

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having a different foot. Alternative, the feet can be made removable from the rods 30. Figs. 11-13 illustrate three different leg arrangements. Foot 36 (Fig. 11) comprises a downwardly-extending spike for engaging soft ground such as dirt in a cornfield. Foot 36A (Fig. 12) includes a panel-shaped member that can be used for soft, marshy areas where a large footprint is desired, or can be used on hard surfaces where penetration of the ground is not possible. Also, the foot 36A can be made of a rigid foam or the like to provide some buoyancy. Foot 36B (Fig. 13) is similar to foot 36, but includes a webbing 37 that extends between the rods 30, for providing increased surface area.